



The Insider

www.senate.mi.gov/switalski

Inside State Politics with State Senator Mickey Switalski Senate District 10

August 18, 2006

Welcome to the electronic version of *The Insider*. If you would like to contact me, please feel free to e-mail me at senmswitalski@senate.michigan.gov or call me at my Roseville or Lansing office. You can also meet me in person during my constituent hours, coming to a library near you. Call my office and make an appointment or just walk in. See schedule for details. Please note that I have canceled my coffee hours for August 28th because I will be out of town and unable to attend. I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Mickey's Letter Bag

Dear Senator Switalski:

I just read your article on single-gender schools. I have to agree with you. I work in an elementary building as a teacher's assistant and I have to tell you the students are boy and girl crazy so early in age now, it's ridiculous. I think that single-gender classrooms would make a tremendous difference in their academics. In fact, I'm saving your article and will discuss this with our principal. I'm hoping she'll want to be a trendsetter and give this a try. Even if we can't be an all-girl or all-boy school, maybe we can have all-girl and all-boy classrooms. Since the students don't change classrooms at the elementary school level, I can see this working as well.

Lenore Thornhill
Roseville

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Dear Senator Switalski:

Advanced Practice Nurses (APN's) are registered nurses who have formal advanced education beyond their bachelor's level nursing degrees in specialty areas. Included in the rigorous combination of classroom and clinical studies, APN's are also extensively educated in the area of pharmacology - the study of drugs, including their composition, production, uses, and effects in the body.

All APN education in Michigan occurs in college master's-level programs at schools such as Grand Valley State University, Madonna University, Michigan State University, Northern Michigan University, Oakland University, Saginaw Valley State University, University of Detroit Mercy, University of Michigan, and Wayne State University.

At the Michigan universities that offer both nursing and physician programs, APN's graduate with comparable, and sometimes more, hours (75 to 180 hours) of pharmacology education than doctors (44 to 92 hours). In fact, the pharmacology courses APN's complete are taught by the same doctors, pharmacists or doctoral prepared APN's who teach medical students.

After completing between 75 and 180 hours of classroom pharmacology instruction, APN's also must complete up to 800 hours of clinical practice before taking the national board certification exam. Pharmacology education continues even after certification, as APN Continuing Education consistently includes a strong pharmacology component. Certification boards, such as the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board, often have specific requirements for completion of pharmacology continuing education.

APN's are educated extensively in pharmacology, and are currently writing thousands of prescriptions as a delegated function from physicians.

I, and the other 3,300 APN's in Michigan, urge you to pass Senate Bill 1245 and give us the Right to Write.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Pawlik
Sterling Heights

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Dear Senator Switalski,

As all of us agree including both Democrats and Republicans, the Single Business Tax needs to be repealed. But the problem is nothing is being proposed to replace most of the money that will be lost when the tax is repealed.

Education, especially higher education, needs to be a priority in funding. College is not affordable for everyone in our state, yet it is the key to our state attracting the jobs of tomorrow. Police and fire services are being cut left and right because of falling revenue sharing levels. Repealing the SBT without a replacement is going to hold back the state just as much as not getting rid of it is. How many businesses are going to put off decisions to locate here, or expand here when they do not know what they can count on for taxes? How will they want to invest in a state that given the current course will not be able to fund the things that make our state better than most of the states in the South. We offer services and a way of life that cannot be replicated in these states.

You as legislators need to think about what you are doing before you vote on this. You may be doing more harm than good by your vote. You need to vote this tax out, but you also need to come up with a replacement now, not later. Do not put off the decisions due to election politics. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Casimir Rakowski
Clinton Township, MI

I tend to agree, Casimir. But the Michigan Legislature went ahead and passed the SBT repeal on August 9th without a replacement in place, largely along party lines. Stay tuned for further developments.
Mickey

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Dear Senator:

I have voted in every election, from school board/millage through local, state, and federal since I was 21 years old. That's 50 years.

I vote the individual not the party. I guess that makes me an Independent. But, because of Michigan's "fixed" primary process, I cannot split my ticket to vote for those people who I feel are the best candidate(s).

What are you afraid of? Open the primaries and let the people decide who gets to run for any office. Don't hold the voters captive because you politicians are afraid of what might happen. If you actually deserve to represent us, you will be elected.

Susan Westlake
Clinton Township

Hi Sue:

I introduced a bill to open all Michigan primaries and allow crossover voting, but both parties hated my bill and killed it. Then the Supreme Court overturned a state law in Alaska and Louisiana allowing crossover voting and I gave up.

Mickey

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Dear Senator,

I have just wrote a letter that I hope will be heard by the committee examining Senate Bill 186. I would like to take my time further to voice my support to you as well. I think it is time we finally acknowledge the public health and concern of non-smokers. For years we either had the choice to subject ourselves to second-hand smoke or stay home. It is time we as a state acknowledge the non-smoker's rights. I have read and listened to studies that indicate the harmful effects second-hand smoke creates. In one study it showed an increase in heart attacks attributed to second-hand smoke. It explained how the body reacted to second-hand smoke which potentially created the heart attacks of non-smokers. I hope you as a Senator realize the importance of this legislation and I hope you and your office helps push this meaningful legislation along.

Sincerely,
Paul Wagenknecht
Roseville

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Cherokee School seems to have a good way to teach civics. It is necessary for our students from early on to understand how our government works, why and what is all involved. The basics need to be taught. The importance of freedoms, elections, democratic processes, responsibilities and laws need to be understood by all. It is never too early to start. I think we are losing some of that in schools now and it should be reinforced. See what you can do in Michigan.

Gender specific is a good option. The kids need to grow up in a multi-environment of everything but some classes could be separated for learning's sake. Parents can make the final decision. Keep up the good job.

Henry Sommerstorfer
Clinton Township

Mickey's TV Insider Show

Check out my TV Insider Show coming to a television station near you. Watch me interview local guests about politics, life, issues and concerns to our district.

Sterling Heights

Every Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 p.m.
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

Utica

Every Wednesday at 9 a.m.
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

Clinton Township

Last week of every month- Sat thru Thurs
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

Roseville

Various Times
(Comcast Channel 18)

*Please note that Sterling Heights/Utica/Clinton Township will show the TV Insider Show on Comcast Channel 5 and Wide Open West Channel 10. Clinton Township will air the TV Insider Show at various times during the last week of every month. Roseville can see the TV Insider Show on Comcast Channel 18.

Coffee Hours

*Since my District Office is in Roseville, I do not have set coffee hours in Roseville. However, I encourage you to visit the Roseville office. We even have a coffee pot. Everyone is welcome to attend the coffee hours and discuss their issues and concerns.

September 25
7-9 p.m.

Location: Clinton-Macomb Public Library
(35891 Gratiot)
Clinton Township

October 2
7-9 p.m.

Location: Sterling Heights Public Library
(40255 Dodge Park)
Sterling Heights

Contact My Office

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